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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/869,175	09/21/2001	Kenjiro Tsuda	2001-0886A	4081

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WASHINGTON, DC 20006-1021

EXAMINER
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WASHBURN, DANIEL C

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2628

SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD OF RESPONSE	MAIL DATE	DELIVERY MODE
3 MONTHS	12/22/2006	PAPER

**Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.**

If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire 6 MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.

<b>Office Action Summary</b>	<b>Application No.</b> 09/869,175	<b>Applicant(s)</b> TSUDA ET AL.	
	<b>Examiner</b> Dan Washburn	<b>Art Unit</b> 2628	

**-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --**

**Period for Reply**

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

**Status**

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 29 September 2006.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**.                      2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

**Disposition of Claims**

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 49 and 50 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 49 and 50 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

**Application Papers**

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 21 September 2001 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.  
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).  
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

**Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119**

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All    b) ☐ Some \* c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- \* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

**Attachment(s)**

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)                                | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)<br>Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)                       | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application                       |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)<br>Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____  |

## **DETAILED ACTION**

### ***Response to Arguments***

Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 49 and 50 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

### ***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112***

The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

Claims 49 and 50 rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

The last paragraph of claim 49 and the last paragraph of claim 50 are unclear. The examiner is unable to determine exactly what the last paragraph of each claim is describing, because of poor comma placement and other grammatical errors within each paragraph. For purposes of examination, the examiner interprets the last paragraph of each claim as, "wherein the display, in a way of shifting from a screen display in which the three-dimensional rotation body object is displayed, at a time when the selection input is received by the selection input means, to a full-screen display, displays a program execution screen of the program executed by the program execution means, where the program execution means is performed by an animation display."

Appropriate correction is required.

***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103***

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 49 and 50 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Amro et al. (US 5,515,486) in view of Hoarty (US 5,485,197), and further in view of Ohkura et al. (US 6,005,601):

As to claim 49, Amro describes a data selection and execution device comprising: a selecting object displaying means for displaying an image on a display screen, which image comprises a selecting object having mapped textures indicating data contents to respective planes of a three-dimensional rotation body object, which plural planes being disposed at regular intervals with respect to a center axis, being located in a three-dimensional virtual space (column 2 lines 5-35 describes a polyhedral display container (Figures 3 and 4) and column 3 lines 27-33 describes that each panel contains program icons (data icons) and workspace switches); a rotation display control means for giving a rotation display control signal to display an image which comprises the selecting object rotating with the center axis as a center of rotation in the three-dimensional virtual space, to the selecting object displaying means (column 3 lines 46-67 and column 4 lines 1-2 describe that the user is able to rotate front panel container 300 by clicking or double-clicking in empty space on any visible front panel except the central front panel. When the user clicks on a desired panel the front panel container

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300 rotates along the x-axis and/or along the y-axis as needed to place the desired panel in the central front position. The user clicking on a desired panel and the system adjusting to place that panel in the central front position is considered a rotation display control means); a selection input means for receiving a selection input to select a program (column 3 lines 34-45 describes that front panel 322 contains four engineering drawing tools, where each drawing tool can be opened and operated in separate workspaces. The user may use a pointing device 218 to open and manipulate any of the described tools, as is well-known in the computer art); a selection plane judging means for judging which plane among the plural planes composing the three-dimensional rotation body object faces front on a display screen when the selection input is inputted from the selection input means (column 3 lines 27-45 describes that in a preferred embodiment only the central front panel is active, meaning that only its objects can be activated (e.g. opened). Alternatively, multiple front panels could be active. If only the central front panel is active then the system would first determine if the program that the user has requested access to exists within the central front panel. If the program is not located within the central front panel then the request is denied and the program doesn't open. The system determining if the request to open a program applies to a program in the central front plane is considered a selection plane judging means); a first correspondence table holding means for holding information which indicates a correspondence relationship between the plural planes composing the three-dimensional rotation body object and the programs (column 4 lines 45-58 describes a look-up table that dynamically maintains the screen coordinates of each front panel and

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object(s) within each front panel); a data deciding means for judging the data which corresponds to the plane judged by the selection plane judging means based on the information held in the first correspondence table holding means, so as to decide data to open (column 4 lines 45-58 describes that the look-up table dynamically maintains the screen coordinates for object(s) within each front panel and column 3 lines 27-45 describes that these objects may be icons, controls, or workspace switches, the icons are considered to potentially represent data. The system determines the data that are within the active window based on the look-up table and then opens them as requested by a user); and the rotation display control means being provided with a holding means for holding information to rotate the selecting object in a prescribed pattern, and providing the rotation display control signal to the selecting object displaying means on the basis of the information held in the holding means (column 4 lines 45-58 describes a look-up table that holds the screen coordinates of each displayed front panel. Column 3 lines 46-67 and column 4 lines 1-21 describe that the user is able to rotate the front panel container about four axes, namely the X, Y, and left and right diagonal axes. The look-up table in combination with the system's ability to rotate along the X, Y, left diagonal, and right diagonal axes is considered a rotation display control means being provided with a holding means for holding information to rotate the selecting object in a prescribed pattern).

Amro doesn't describe a second corresponding table holding means for holding information which indicates a corresponding information between the data and the program to open the data; a program deciding means for judging the program to open

the data which is decided by the data holding means based on the information held in the second corresponding table holding means, so as to decide a program to execute; and a program executing means for executing the program decided by the program deciding means, so as to open the data decided by the data deciding means.

However, Hoarty describes an interactive home information system that provides interactive cable television services to a plurality of subscribers (column 2 lines 19-52). Hoarty further describes a carousel menu system that presents a menu of choices to the user (see Figures 35-41). The user can select a menu item using a remote control and the system will either present a new screen of menu items or switch to presenting the desired television show or movie (column 18 lines 63-67 and column 19 lines 1-45). The grid of menu items illustrated in Figure 35 is considered a second corresponding table holding means for holding information which indicates a corresponding information between the data and the program to open the data. The described remote unit 14 and the menu interface illustrated in Figure 35 are considered the program deciding means for judging the program to open the data which is decided by the data deciding means based on the information held in the second corresponding table holding means, so as to decide a program to execute. The described remote unit 14 and the menu interface illustrated in Figure 35 are also considered a program executing means for executing the program decided by the program deciding means, so as to open the data decided by the data deciding means (column 19 lines 10-18 specifically describes that the user can use the remote unit 14 to overlay a menu choice of interest and then push a button on the remote unit 14 to select the menu choice). It would have been obvious to one of

ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to include in Amro the system and method of a second corresponding table holding means for holding information which indicates a corresponding information between the data and the program to open the data; a program deciding means for judging the program to open the data which is decided by the data holding means based on the information held in the second corresponding table holding means, so as to decide a program to execute; and a program executing means for executing the program decided by the program deciding means, so as to open the data decided by the data deciding means, as taught by Hoarty, in order to incorporate cable television viewing into one or more of the panels of the front panel container described in Amro. The advantage of incorporating cable television viewing into the front panel container described in Amro is that it creates a demand for Amro's invention that didn't exist before, namely, the demand for cable television and easily navigating through multiple menus and other information to find a desired show or movie.

Amro also doesn't describe a data selection executing device which further comprises a data reproducing-displaying means, which, when data corresponding to each plane of the three-dimensional rotation body object are sound data, moving image data, or moving image data accompanying sound data, performs reproduction and display of corresponding data in conjunction with a display of the selecting object, and which performs reproduction and display so that, when a plane which faces front the most on the display screen is switched from a first plane to a second plane adjacent thereto by the rotation of the selecting object, reproduction and display of data



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corresponding to the first plane is faded out, which reproduction and display of data corresponding to the second plane is faded in.

However, Hoarty describes a data selection executing device which further comprises a data reproducing-displaying means, which, when data corresponding to each plane of the three-dimensional rotation body object are sound data, moving image data, or moving image data accompanying sound data, performs reproduction and display of corresponding data in conjunction with a display of the selecting object, and which performs reproduction and display so that, when a plane which faces front the most on the display screen is switched from a first plane to a second plane adjacent thereto by the rotation of the selecting object, reproduction and display of data corresponding to the first plane is faded out, which reproduction and display of data corresponding to the second plane is faded in (column 18 lines 63-67, column 19 lines 1-18, and Figures 35-41 describe a rotational body that acts as an interactive television guide. Column 10 lines 35-65 and Figure 12 describe the video subsystem 121 and audio subsystem 122, which operate under control of CPU 127 and control line 128. The video and audio subsystems determine which video and audio signals to pass from the analog MMC 125 to the scrambler-modulator card 126. Specifically, the mixer 122e of audio subsystem 122 takes in audio data from TV tuner 129, background music source 122b, tactile response source 122c, and digital program source 122d. If a user is watching television (considered to be presented on a first plane of the rotational object) then the mixer 122e sends the audio information from the TV tuner module, when a user transitions from watching TV to viewing an interactive menu (considered to

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be presented on a second plane of the rotational object) the audio signal from the television program fades out and the audio signal from the interactive menu (e.g., either background music, tactile response audio, or both) fades in). See above for motivation to combine Hoarty with Amro.

Amro in view of Hoarty doesn't explicitly describe a system or method wherein the display, in a way of shifting from a screen display in which the three-dimensional rotation body object is displayed, at a time when the selection input is received by the selection input means, to a full-screen display, displays a program execution screen of the program executed by the program execution means, where the program execution means is performed by an animation display.

However, Ohkura describes an electronic program guide (EPG) that allows a user to select a channel of interest (column 2 lines 10-16). The EPG is designed as a cylinder that allows the user to rotate through a plurality of areas in order to find a channel of interest (column 5 lines 60-67 and column 6 lines 1-10). When the user wants to view a particular show, he presses the select button switch (decide key) 128 (illustrated in Figure 7). The system responds to this command by determining if the program of interest is currently being broadcast. If the program of interest is currently being broadcast then the CPU of the system controls the tuner to receive the channel of the designated program, and hence an image of the designated program is displayed on the monitor. Then, at that time, the program list that has been displayed so far is erased (column 11 lines 51-67). The examiner considers the process of the system displaying a selected program in place of the cylinder EPG a system and method

wherein the display, in a way of shifting from a screen display in which the three-dimensional rotation body object is displayed, at a time when the selection input is received by the selection input means, to a full-screen display, displays a program execution screen of the program executed by the program execution means, where the program execution means is performed by an animation display. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to include in Amro in view of Hoarty the system and method of allowing a user to select a program from the EPG and then automatically display the program at full screen, in place of the EPG, as taught by Ohkura, in order to make the user interface as simple and intuitive as possible by allowing a user to simply select a program of interest, where the program of interest is automatically displayed at full screen. The advantage of this simplicity is that a typical user will be able to learn and operate the system with very little effort, which makes the system very user friendly and thus creates a demand for the product.

Concerning claim 50, Amro describes a data selection and execution device comprising: a selecting object displaying means for displaying an image on a display screen, which image comprises a selecting object having mapped textures indicating data contents to respective planes of a three-dimensional rotation body object, which plural planes being disposed at regular intervals with respect to a center axis, being located in a three-dimensional virtual space (column 2 lines 5-35 describes a polyhedral display container (Figures 3 and 4) and column 3 lines 27-33 describes that each panel contains program icons (data icons) and workspace switches); a rotation display control means for giving a rotation display control signal to display an image which comprises

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the selecting object rotating with the center axis as a center of rotation in the three-dimensional virtual space, to the selecting object displaying means (column 3 lines 46-67 and column 4 lines 1-2 describe that the user is able to rotate front panel container 300 by clicking or double-clicking in empty space on any visible front panel except the central front panel. When the user clicks on a desired panel the front panel container 300 rotates along the x-axis and/or along the y-axis as needed to place the desired panel in the central front position. The user clicking on a desired panel and the system adjusting to place that panel in the central front position is considered a rotation display control means); a selection input means for receiving a selection input to select a program (column 3 lines 34-45 describes that front panel 322 contains four engineering drawing tools, where each drawing tool can be opened and operated in separate workspaces. The user may use a pointing device 218 to open and manipulate any of the described tools, as is well-known in the computer art); a selection plane judging means for judging which plane among the plural planes composing the three-dimensional rotation body object faces front on a display screen when the selection input is inputted from the selection input means (column 3 lines 27-45 describes that in a preferred embodiment only the central front panel is active, meaning that only its objects can be activated (e.g. opened). Alternatively, multiple front panels could be active. If only the central front panel is active then the system would first determine if the program that the user has requested access to exists within the central front panel. If the program is not located within the central front panel then the request is denied and the program doesn't open. The system determining if the request to open a program

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applies to a program in the central front plane is considered a selection plane judging means); a first correspondence table holding means for holding information which indicates a correspondence relationship between the plural planes composing the three-dimensional rotation body object and the programs (column 4 lines 45-58 describes a look-up table that dynamically maintains the screen coordinates of each front panel and object(s) within each front panel); a data deciding means for judging the data which corresponds to the plane judged by the selection plane judging means based on the information held in the first correspondence table holding means, so as to decide data to open (column 4 lines 45-58 describes that the look-up table dynamically maintains the screen coordinates for object(s) within each front panel and column 3 lines 27-45 describes that these objects may be icons, controls, or workspace switches, the icons are considered to potentially represent data. The system determines the data that are within the active window based on the look-up table and then opens them as requested by a user); and the rotation display control means being provided with a holding means for holding information to rotate the selecting object in a prescribed pattern, and providing the rotation display control signal to the selecting object displaying means on the basis of the information held in the holding means (column 4 lines 45-58 describes a look-up table that holds the screen coordinates of each displayed front panel. Column 3 lines 46-67 and column 4 lines 1-21 describe that the user is able to rotate the front panel container about four axes, namely the X, Y, and left and right diagonal axes. The look-up table in combination with the system's ability to rotate along the X, Y, left diagonal, and right diagonal axes is considered a rotation display control means being

provided with a holding means for holding information to rotate the selecting object in a prescribed pattern).

Amro doesn't describe a second corresponding table holding means for holding information which indicates a corresponding information between the data and the program to open the data; a program deciding means for judging the program to open the data which is decided by the data holding means based on the information held in the second corresponding table holding means, so as to decide a program to execute; and a program executing means for executing the program decided by the program deciding means, so as to open the data decided by the data deciding means.

However, Hoarty describes an interactive home information system that provides interactive cable television services to a plurality of subscribers (column 2 lines 19-52). Hoarty further describes a carousel menu system that presents a menu of choices to the user (see Figures 35-41). The user can select a menu item using a remote control and the system will either present a new screen of menu items or switch to presenting the desired television show or movie (column 18 lines 63-67 and column 19 lines 1-45). The grid of menu items illustrated in Figure 35 is considered a second corresponding table holding means for holding information which indicates a corresponding information between the data and the program to open the data. The described remote unit 14 and the menu interface illustrated in Figure 35 are considered the program deciding means for judging the program to open the data which is decided by the data deciding means based on the information held in the second corresponding table holding means, so as to decide a program to execute. The described remote unit 14 and the menu interface

illustrated in Figure 35 are also considered a program executing means for executing the program decided by the program deciding means, so as to open the data decided by the data deciding means (column 19 lines 10-18 specifically describes that the user can use the remote unit 14 to overlay a menu choice of interest and then push a button on the remote unit 14 to select the menu choice). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to include in Amro the system and method of a second corresponding table holding means for holding information which indicates a corresponding information between the data and the program to open the data; a program deciding means for judging the program to open the data which is decided by the data holding means based on the information held in the second corresponding table holding means, so as to decide a program to execute; and a program executing means for executing the program decided by the program deciding means, so as to open the data decided by the data deciding means, as taught by Hoarty, in order to incorporate cable television viewing into one or more of the panels of the front panel container described in Amro. The advantage of incorporating cable television viewing into the front panel container described in Amro is that it creates a demand for Amro's invention that didn't exist before, namely, the demand for cable television and easily navigating through multiple menus and other information to find a desired show or movie.

Amro also doesn't describe a data selection executing device which further comprises a data reproducing-displaying means, which, when data corresponding to each plane of the three-dimensional rotation body object are data including sound data,

performs reproduction and display of corresponding data in conjunction with a display of the selecting object and which has a first audio data audio source corresponding to the first plane which faces front the most on the display screen and the second audio data audio source position corresponding to the second plane adjacent to the first plane, according to the rotation of the selection object, and performs reproduction and display of the first and second audio data in accordance with the movements of the positions of the first and second planes.

However, Hoarty describes a data selection executing device which further comprises a data reproducing-displaying means, which, when data corresponding to each plane of the three-dimensional rotation body object are data including sound data, performs reproduction and display of corresponding data in conjunction with a display of the selecting object and which has a first audio data audio source corresponding to the first plane which faces front the most on the display screen and the second audio data audio source position corresponding to the second plane adjacent to the first plane, according to the rotation of the selection object, and performs reproduction and display of the first and second audio data in accordance with the movements of the positions of the first and second planes (column 18 lines 63-67, column 19 lines 1-18, and Figures 35-41 describe a rotational body that acts as an interactive television guide. Column 10 lines 35-65 and Figure 12 describe the video subsystem 121 and audio subsystem 122, which operate under control of CPU 127 and control line 128. The video and audio subsystems determine which video and audio signals to pass from the analog MMC 125 to the scrambler-modulator card 126. Specifically, the mixer 122e of audio subsystem



122 takes in audio data from TV tuner 129 (considered the first audio data audio source), background music source 122b (considered the second audio data audio source), tactile response source 122c, and digital program source 122d. If a user is watching television (considered to be presented on a first plane of the rotational object) then the mixer 122e sends the audio information from the TV tuner module, when a user transitions from watching TV to viewing an interactive menu (considered to be presented on a second plane of the rotational object) the audio signal from the television program fades out and the audio signal from the interactive menu (e.g., either background music, tactile response audio, or both) fades in). See above for motivation to combine Hoarty with Amro.

Amro in view of Hoarty doesn't explicitly describe a system or method wherein the display, in a way of shifting from a screen display in which the three-dimensional rotation body object is displayed, at a time when the selection input is received by the selection input means, to a full-screen display, displays a program execution screen of the program executed by the program execution means, where the program execution means is performed by an animation display.

However, Ohkura describes an electronic program guide (EPG) that allows a user to select a channel of interest (column 2 lines 10-16). The EPG is designed as a cylinder that allows the user to rotate through a plurality of areas in order to find a channel of interest (column 5 lines 60-67 and column 6 lines 1-10). When the user wants to view a particular show, he presses the select button switch (decide key) 128 (illustrated in Figure 7). The system responds to this command by determining if the

program of interest is currently being broadcast. If the program of interest is currently being broadcast then the CPU of the system controls the tuner to receive the channel of the designated program, and hence an image of the designated program is displayed on the monitor. Then, at that time, the program list that has been displayed so far is erased (column 11 lines 51-67). The examiner considers the process of the system displaying a selected program in place of the cylinder EPG a system and method wherein the display, in a way of shifting from a screen display in which the three-dimensional rotation body object is displayed, at a time when the selection input is received by the selection input means, to a full-screen display, displays a program execution screen of the program executed by the program execution means, where the program execution means is performed by an animation display. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to include in Amro in view of Hoarty the system and method of allowing a user to select a program from the EPG and then automatically display the program at full screen, in place of the EPG, as taught by Ohkura, in order to make the user interface as simple and intuitive as possible by allowing a user to simply select a program of interest, where the program of interest is automatically displayed at full screen. The advantage of this simplicity is that a typical user will be able to learn and operate the system with very little effort, which makes the system very user friendly and thus creates a demand for the product.

***Conclusion***

Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the date of this final action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Dan Washburn whose telephone number is (571) 272-5551. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday through Friday 8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m..

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Ulka Chauhan can be reached on (571) 272-7782. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

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ULKA CHAUHAN  
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER